

March 1998

Walnut Grove Industrial Park Site

Department of Health Exposure Investigation Results

Background: Walnut Grove is a 20-acre industrial park in northeast Vancouver, located in a light industrial/residential area. In 1994, the Southwest Washington Health District (SWHD) conducted a site assessment and discovered chemicals being discharged from two broken storm drainage pipes. The pipes drain near the edge of a marsh that separates the industrial and residential areas. Citizens who live in the area were concerned over possible exposure to hazardous substances. To address citizen's concerns, the SWHD requested that the Department of Health (DOH) conduct an exposure investigation.

Exposure Investigation: DOH conducted an exposure investigation, looking at the hazardous substances at the site and evaluating adverse health effects related to possible exposure. The exposure investigation was completed in December 1997, and copies were distributed to agencies and individuals involved with the site.

Conclusions: There is slight contamination in some drinking water wells and residential yard soil. However, the current contaminant concentrations are not expected to cause adverse health effects that would be of concern to adults or young children.

However, the broken east storm drainage pipe is contaminated with lead at levels high enough to be of concern if children played frequently in this area.

Recent information indicates that the location of the old Borden Chemical septic/drain field system is also located in this area and could be a contributing source.

Recommendations: Department of Health recommends the following actions:

- ★ The area along the south side of the industrial park should be characterized.
- ★ Some additional residential well sampling should be done and the results provided to DOH for evaluation of future potential health impacts.
- ★ Children should be discouraged from playing on the north side of the marsh, near the Walnut Grove Industrial Park, because elevated lead concentrations in those areas could create a health hazard.

Current Actions: Grimm Enterprises, owner of the Walnut Grove Industrial Park, has agreed to perform a "voluntary clean-up" under guidance from Ecology. This will include: site characterization, removal of contaminated materials, and follow-up soil and groundwater monitoring to verify the removal of contaminated materials.

DOH will continue to evaluate environmental monitoring data.

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This fact sheet was supported by funds from the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act Trust Fund through a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Public Health Service, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.